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STAT

SES-192-87
7 October 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

THROUGH: Chief, Headquarters Engineering Division, ESG/FBIS

FROM: Bill Stanbridge
System Engineering Support, GE

SUBJECT: Emergency AFS ERB Meeting Report

1. An Emergency AFS Engineering Review Board was held on 6 October 1987 at 1400. See Attachment A for a list of attendees.

2. [redacted] opened the meeting and stated that the reason for the ERB meeting was to make a decision on whether or not to test a new piece of communications software on the AFS System. STAT

3. [redacted] stated that the new software had been installed but had not yet been activated pending an ERB approval of a test. John then detailed the nature of the change and the capabilities it would provide. The change would: STAT

a. Add a printer and a commo terminal, which would eventually be installed in the Wire Service area.

b. Allow the commo operator to print a block of messages regardless of whether the ATEX link is up or down.

c. The printed messages can then be given to the Wire Service for editing and manual assignment of a WSS number.

d. The commo operator can then use a Wire Service header template to enter and send the message.

When the ATEX link is restored, the ATEX operator can "spike" the numbers to bring the ATEX system back in step with the numbers sent out from the VAX.

4. [redacted] observed that this capability could be used even if the ATEX Wire Service link is up, in order to get flash and immediate precedence items out if the ATEX system is backlogged. Priority and routine precedence items would continue to run normally on the ATEX system. Some high precedence messages could potentially be sent twice but this could be corrected procedurally. STAT

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5. [redacted] pointed out that the printout contained the DAN to assist in message identification and avoidance of double transmission. Also, with the additional commo position in the Wire Service area, the message could be edited in softcopy on the VAX using the DEC editor or a brand new message could be entered. STAT

6. Ed Brewer noted that there are presently no precedences on the outgoing Wire Service items. Ed also recommended that the "distribute" command be initiated from the VAX to get emergency generated VAX Wire Service messages back to the ATEX for later use if necessary. Ed advised that if a message were transferred to the ATEX this way, there would be no gentags.

7. [redacted] stated that this lack of gentags would be no problem for the Wire Service. Dick also asked whether the hard copy message could be printed with double or triple spacing. [redacted] assured him that the printer could be set for double space. STAT STAT

8. Ed Brewer advised the ERB that the test of this new software was separate from the operational software, used an off line printer, and had a "0" risk factor for the AFS system operations. The only differences for the AFS system would the manual activation of the queue for the test printer and the printing of test messages on the printer.

9. After some discussion, the ERB decided to test the new software between 1700 and 2300 on 6 October in order to minimize the impact to AFS operations if any problems developed during the test.

10. The test was successfully commpleted and Ed Brewer will prepare an RFC. If the RFC is approved by the ERB, LEC will run the cable to the Wire Service area and install the commo terminal and printer. [redacted] will determine where the commo terminal and printer will be located in the Wire Service area, and write the procedures for Wire Service and Data Center coordination and use of the new software. STAT

Bill Stanbridge

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Attachment

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ATTACHMENT A

AFS ERB Attendees

R. Johns
B. Hunter
M. Tanigawa
J. Kosiak
E. Brewer
J. Wisor
J. McGowan
T. Engle
D. Lehman
C. Bestor
B. Stanbridge
J. Shipley

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